

MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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My name is Natalia Yandun, I am 21 years old, I am Colombian, and I am a student of the Erasmus+ program in the Czech Republic at the University of Hradec Králové. I study Political Science and International Relations.

If someday I am asked to describe my experience with Erasmus+ in the Czech Republic, I think I would need many many hours for it... During these five months I have lived an endless number of good and bad experiences, which have not only contributed to my education and to me as a human being but have also filled me with memories and experiences that I will never forget.

I remember when they told me at my university that I had been selected for the Erasmus+ scholarship at the University of Hradec Králové... I could not believe it.



A million illusions and beautiful and incredible things came to my mind, but what I imagined was not even half of what I actually lived because it was an unforgettable experience to live on the other side of the world.

In the beginning, like any change, it was hard for me to leave my home, separate from my family and my people, and arrive in a country with a culture very different from mine, with another language, that works differently, and live in a place where I had to share with different cultures and share my living space as well; it was a big change and an escape from my comfort zone in Colombia.



I learned many things, among those: to live with people from different cultures and religions in the same space -I met different cultures and their points of view in each of my classes as well-, to adapt to different transportation systems, food, and social dynamics... Things that have contributed to me somehow and make me the human being I am today.

Meeting people of my own age from many countries was one of the most beautiful experiences, I made very good friends, I learned a bit about other cultures and languages, and above all, I got a family here. A family that I chose and with whom I experienced things that I had never experienced with any other friend before. We traveled, we supported each other in times of sadness, we took care of each other, we studied, we laughed, and we lived our youth.



On the other hand, thanks to the European Union, I got to know many places in Europe, I ate typical food from those places, I met spectacular cities that I never thought I would know about, and I met people that are now fundamental in my life and that I hope to see again. In short, I lived a dream, a dream that I hope other young people like me can live and take advantage of it more or in the same way as I did.



Finally, the academic offer given by the university was quite varied, which made it easier for me to validate my courses at my home university in Colombia. Also, the quality and level of preparation, as well as the teaching methods of the professors were unparalleled, all of them focused on comprehensive education and were not based on fear and learning by heart.

I can only say that my exchange marked me in a very nice way for life and a piece of my heart will always be in the Czech Republic, in my beloved Hradec Králové.

